Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 25 with the following rewritten paragraph:

After color histogram equalization step **201**, the image is searched for skin color regions in skin color detection step **202**. While it is possible to detect skin in a digital image in a number of ways, a preferred method for detecting skin in a digital image is the method that is described in commonly assigned ~~and co-pending patent application~~ U.S. Serial No. 09/692,930, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,690,822, incorporated herein by reference. In this preferred method, skin color pixels are separated from other pixels by defining a working color space that contains a range of possible skin colors collected from a large, well-balanced population of images. A pixel is then identified as a skin color pixel if the pixel has a color that is within the working color space.